

OUR READERS' VIEWS

Del. 1 construction remains on schedule through the fall

Regarding the recent article on the opening date for the northern portion of Del. 1, the opening date to full traffic and toll collection has always been Nov. 16. That date has not changed.

Traffic will be shifted to the southbound lanes of the new road while connections from Del. 1 to U.S. 13 are constructed. Traffic on the shifted portion will be toll-free.

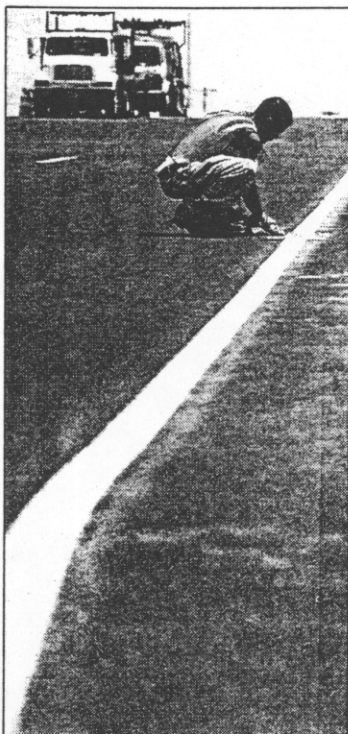
What has changed is the date on which traffic will be switched to the new southbound lanes to allow construction of connections at both the north and south ends of the corridor and to permit completion of work on the northbound side of the new road. This is an intricate process because we are operating under full traffic conditions and want to minimize the impact of changes on the public.

The contractor submitted a schedule in June that showed a shift to the southbound lanes in mid-September. In his August schedule, he changed the date to Oct. 18 because the delay will obviate lane closures on the southbound side under traffic conditions. That will expedite remaining construction on the northbound lanes.

The new schedule compresses the overall time for construction of connections and temporary shifts, minimizing confusion for the public.

The contractor's schedule provides for the shift to the northbound lanes by early November and full opening, including toll collection, Nov. 16.

Our goal is to minimize the confusion and maintain the safest road configuration pos-



News Journal file

Haneef Clowers touches up the stripe on the Del. 1 bypass in Odessa.

sible during the final stages of construction.

Del. 1 is the largest construction project in the history of the state, costing more than \$1 billion, including interest on the debt. This road will lead Delaware into the 21st century. Many people have worked tirelessly to accomplish that. The Department of Transportation will deliver this major transportation facility on schedule.

Anne P. Canby
Secretary

Department of Transportation
Dover